

Corps-wide Initiatives

Emergency Operations

By Bill Irwin

Readiness 2000

When disasters strike, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must begin its response within hours by providing critical life support assistance (i.e., water, ice, emergency power, road clearance, etc.). The Corps also aids in recovery by assisting in the restoration of critical infrastructure and services as soon as possible (i.e., temporary housing, debris removal, etc.). During response and recovery, the Corps sets aside traditional deliberate contracting methods and implements emergency contracting procedures. The Contracting components of our response and recovery teams are essential to the successful and timely execution of our missions for the nation.

As with our Contracting partners, Emergency Managers responsible for planning and coordinating the Corps response are being asked to take on a larger work load in an environment of declining resources. Given this challenge, the Director of Civil Works (DCW) created the Readiness Council of Colonels to recommend a more efficient and effective command readiness program. The adopted recommendations of the Council are an initiative known as "Readiness 2000".

Under Readiness 2000, Readiness and Contracting team members will be working on improving areas of shared interests, such as: training and doctrine in Emergency Contracting procedures, establishment of pre-positioned IDIQ contracts for supplies and services, and preparation of a ready-roster of trained contracting personnel for deployment in emergency events. Other components of the Readiness 2000 initiative include:

Threat/History-Based Resource Allocation: With resources declining, it is essential that these resources are targeted to the correct locations. Beginning in FY99, emergency management offices will be restructured and staffed based on disaster threat and history (primarily floods, hurricanes and earthquakes).

Centralized All-Hazards Training, Exercise, and Evaluation and Corrective Action (TEECA) Program: Readiness 2000 will place a greater emphasis on TEECA activities that can save valuable resources and prepare the Corps for future disasters. The Earthquake Preparedness Center of Expertise, located at the San Francisco District, will be redirected to manage and execute the Readiness TEECA program.

Planning and Response Team(s) (PRT): Currently, each District plans for the full array of disaster missions (ice, water, debris, housing, emergency power, etc.). Under Readiness 2000, Divisions will assign each district with the lead role for one or two missions, (for example, one district may be assigned the temporary housing mission, another the ice mission, etc.). Each District will put together a team (PRT) that will plan, train and gain experience for their assigned mission. If a disaster strikes, this trained/experienced team will be available to deploy to disasters anywhere in the U.S.

Deployable Tactical Operating Systems (DTOS): When a disaster occurs, working space near the disaster area is a priority. Three DTOS systems will be developed to provide USACE with mobile working space and reliable communications at the disaster site, within 24 hours of an event.

Response Support Templates and National Database: With the implementation of Readiness 2000, each District will have a Response Support Template consisting of a standby cadre of personnel trained and ready to respond to local, regional or national disasters. A database system is being developed to manage

and track disaster personnel and teams.

The Corps cannot succeed in meeting our responsibilities for response to and recovery from disasters without strong and effective Contracting support. While both Readiness and Contracting face challenges of an increasing workload and declining resources, innovative approaches such as Readiness 2000 and the restructuring initiatives within the Contracting Community will position the Corps for success. The Readiness team looks forward to working with our colleagues in Contracting as we both restructure our programs to best meet national needs.

Conferences/Training

Upcomings

- * NCMA World Congress' 98, World-Class Education and Training, (Angela Billups, POC)
Huntsville, Alabama; March 29 - April 1, 1998
- * American Project Management Forum #6, (Tony Cochran, POC)
Georgetown Conference Center, Washington, DC; March 26, 1998
- * Annual Worldwide Area/Resident Engineering & Contracting Conference, (LTC Moyer, POC)
May 19-21 1998 in Dallas, Texas
- * Federal Dollar\$ and Sense for Women-Owned Business, Savannah District, SADBU; March 10, 1998

Available spaces in Prospect Courses

By Sherry M. Whitaker

1. Spaces are available in the following courses:
 - a. Hist Structures I, session 98-01, 16-20 Mar 98, Seattle, WA
 - b. Neg Const Cont Mods, 98-03, 16-20 Mar 98, Seattle, WA
 - c. RE Appraisal/Leasing, 98-01, 16-20 Mar 98, San Antonio, TX
 - d. Visitor Assist Mgt & Pol, 98-02, 18-20 Mar 98, Sacramento, CA
 - e. Visitor Assist NRM, 98-02, 16-20 Mar 98, Sacramento, CA
 - f. A-E Contracting, 98-05, 23-27 Mar 98, Decatur, GA

g. Civil Works Orientation, 98-01, 23-27 Mar 98, Huntsville, AL

h. Fire Protection, 93-01, 23-27 Mar 98, Huntsville, AL

i. Human Resour Mgt III, 98-05, 23-27 Mar 98, Broken Arrow, AL

j. Soil Structure Interact, 98-01, 23-27 Mar 98, Vicksburg, MS

2. Spaces may be received by forwarding a DD Form 1556 to CE Registrar Division at 202-895-7469 (fax no.)